The Three Promises

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Baba and Mansoor's Special Lesson

Mansoor sits next to Baba after Maghrib prayer, watching him count some money.

Mansoor: Baba, what are you doing?

Baba: I am setting aside money for Zakat, my son. Do you know what Zakat is?

Mansoor: Umm… is it like giving money to the poor?

Baba: Yes, but it's more than that. It is an obligation in Islam. We give a portion of what we have to those in need so that everyone in the community can live with dignity.

Mansoor nods, thinking for a moment.

Mansoor: Baba, why do we have to do it?

Baba: That's a great question! The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) once said, "I gave the pledge of allegiance to Allah's Apostle for the following: Offer prayers perfectly, pay the Zakat, and be sincere and true to every Muslim." These are three important promises every Muslim should keep.

Mansoor: So, praying, giving Zakat, and being truthful are all promises to Allah?

Baba: Yes! Salah keeps our connection with Allah strong, Zakat teaches us to care for others, and sincerity means always being honest and kind to people.

Mansoor: Oh! That means if someone is in trouble, we should help them?

Baba: Absolutely! Like when you helped your friend Sami find his lost book. That was sincerity—being true and caring towards others.

Mansoor smiles, feeling happy about his good deed.

Mansoor: Baba, can I give some of my pocket money for Zakat?

Baba: That is a wonderful idea! Even a small amount given with a pure heart is valuable in Allah's eyes.